

REPORT OF THE BIRLA INDUSTRIAL & TECHNOLOGICAL
MUSEUM FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY TO NOVEMBER, 1963

Achievements of the Institution

1963

A. Visitors :

- a. Number of visitors during the period was 1,96,3
- b. Popular Scientific and Technical Film shows arranged regularly for students and other visitors free of charge. 10,000 persons attended the shows during the period.
- c. 285 organised groups from various institutions from different parts of the country visited the museum.

B. New Gallery :

A new gallery on 'Communication' showing the evolution of the telephone, telegraph and postal system has been inaugurated in this museum on 16th March, 1963 by Prof. Humayun Kabir, ex-Union Minister for Scientific Research & Cultural Affairs.

A temporary postal exhibition was held in this museum from 16th March, 1963 to 7th April, 1963. The exhibits were in the form of early and modern postage stamps, early covers, hand-struck stamps of the pre-stamp era, postal notices with write-ups.

C. Collections :

During the period under review, the museum was enriched by the acquisitions of about 65 models and exhibits and most of these were gift from institutions and firms in India and abroad.

D. Work done in the Museum :

- a. Models, diagrams and animated models.
- b. Designs, drawings and tracing made for models, dioramas, animated models, pedestals, stands, cabinets etc. - 123
- c. Cabinets, pedestals, stands etc. - 100
- d. Maintenance work involving repair, installation, writing of caption - 600

Salient feature of the plan or programme of work of the institute drawn or approved during the year :

The first meeting of the Executive Council of Birla Industrial & Technological Museum held on 25th September 1963 and the following programme of work for 1963-64 has been decided :

- a. Addition of a new gallery on 'Mining'
- b. Extensive modifications of the galleries on 'Petroleum' and 'Nuclear Physics'.

Educational functions of the museum in Auditorium

A. Film shows :

Popular scientific and technical film shows have been introduced in this museum four times a week; two of such shows are exclusively reserved for students;

B. Popular Lectures

1. Prof. H. Lipson, FRS, Professor of Physics at Manchester College of Science & Technology on 'The scientific revolution of the 20th Century' (February 8, 1964)
2. Shri V. Ramrutham of M/s. Phillips India Ltd. on 'Air-Field Lighting' with lantern slides (February 17, 1964)
3. Shri Kamalesh Ray, Deputy Director, National Register Unit, CSIR on 'Amateur Telescope Making' (February 25-28, 1964).
4. Shri A.K. Kundu, B.M.E. of reputed Aircraft manufacturing concern M/s. Short Brothers, U.K. on 'Jet Propulsion' (March 7, 1964).
5. Shri V.G. Arratoon of General Electric Company of India (Private) Ltd. on 'Some Aspects of Frame-proof Lighting Equipment' (March 30, 1964).
6. Shri K.K. Rohatgi of M/s. Pradip Lamp Works on 'Iodine Cycle Lamps' (April 28, 1964).
7. Shri S. Bhattacharjee, B. Arch. (Cal) M.Arch. (L) ARIBA ON 'Architecture and Illumination' (May 26, 1964).
8. Dr. R. Griffiths, Visiting Professor of Electronics at the Institute of Radio-Physics, Calcutta on 'Communication via the Moon' (June 20, 1964)

Outside organisations used the Auditorium as follows

<u>Name of the organisation</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
1. Illuminating Engineering Society of India, Calcutta	Feb.1,1964	Meeting.
2. United States Information Service &	April 29,1964	Science Symposium
3. Calcutta Productivity Council	Aug.15, 1964	Scientific film shows
4. - do -	Aug. 27, 1964	- do -
5. - do -	Sept.10, 1964	- do -
6. - do -	Sept.24, 1964	- do -
7. - do -	Nov.12, 1964	- do -
8. - do -	Nov. 26,1964	- do -

Special film shows :

Besides the regular weekly film shows, the following special film shows were also arranged :

1. The film entitled 'Nature of things' brought in India by Sir Lawrence Bragg, Director, Royal Institution, London. (Jointly arranged by the British Council, Science Club, Calcutta & Birla Industrial & Technological Museum, January 8, 1964).
2. Films on Oceanography :
 - a. Challenge of the Oceans.
 - b. Blue-print for Discovery
 - c. In which we live, and
 - d. Invisible world.(Jointly sponsored by Birla Industrial & Technological Museum and United States Information Service - April 28 - May 1, 1964)
3.
 - a. Man and Radiation
 - b. Syncom
 - c. Images of life (Sept. 15, 1964)
4.
 - a. Elementary Electricity : Current & Electromotive F
 - b. Electron - An Introduction
 - c. Principles of Electricity

OTHER EDUCATIONAL FUNCTIONS OF THE MUSEUM

Special demonstrations

3 special demonstrations and conducted tours for teachers were arranged in the museum as follows :

<u>No. of teachers</u>	<u>Date</u>
38	Feb. 22, 1964
55	July 14, 1964
30 (Women)	Aug. 8, 1964

Sky observation programme

A special Telescope Demonstration programme for the evening class students of the Birla Planetarium, Calcutta was arranged in the Museum premises on Sept. 12, 1964 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. as under :

- a. Telescopic observation of the crescent moon
- b. Projection of astronomical films entitled :
 - i) The Solar System
 - ii) Beyond the Solar System
 - iii) The Universe
- c. Telescopic observation of the sky for star fields of the milky way, clusters, nebulae, etc.

Besides, arrangements are also made, from time to time, for viewing heavenly bodies through an astronomical telescope.

Library

Museum Library has at present 4614 volumes of books 144 bound periodicals, 1739 pamphlets and subscribes to 56 journals. Now, the services of the Library is restricted only to the members of the museum but steps are being taken to open it to the public also.

Addition to museum programme

To meet the increased demand the film show on Tuesdays has been added for students only. Now, there are four film shows as per following programme instead of previous 3 shows a week :

Tuesdays from 2.30 p.m. for students only

Wednesdays from 6 p.m. for all visitors

Thursdays from 2.30 p.m. for students only

Fridays from 6 p.m. for all visitors.

Admission :

Free : Tuesdays to Saturdays .

Entree fee 25 paise introduced for
Sundays only with effect from Feb. 2, 1964

Television shows :

Television demonstration is held thrice daily (instead of twice) with effect from Oct. 1, 1964 as per following timings :

1st show : 1 p.m. to 1.30 p.m.

2nd show : 3.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

3rd show : 5 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Exhibition

A special exhibition of photographs of historical monuments in India, in response to an UNESCO International Campaign for the preservation of monuments, was arranged in the Reception Hall of the Museum from Nov. 1 - 15, 1964

Publications

- a. An illustrated brochure, Mining Gallery, published during the inauguration of the gallery on June 27, 1964
- b. A priced Guide Book to the museum for sale to the public.